



BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

# REPORT

*of the*

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

*for the years*

**1942 and 1943.**

*Together with the*

# REPORT

*of the*

**SANITARY INSPECTOR.**



OSSETT:

S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS  
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

# *Public Health Committee, 1943.*

## Chairman:

COUNCILLOR C. STEAD (Mayor).

## Members:

ALDERMAN H. OLDROYD.

„ D. ELLIS.

„ G. MOORHOUSE.

„ W. PATTERSON.

COUNCILLOR O. BETTLEY.

„ S. E. BICKLE.

„ S. FELL.

„ J. W. FORD.

„ J. W. GILL.

„ R. HIRST.

„ E. B. NETTLETON.

„ W. A. SMITH.

„ S. B. STEAD.

„ G. F. WILSON.

„ G. WYCHERLEY.

## Co-opted Members:

MRS. G. MOORHOUSE.

MRS. L. FIRTH.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Child Welfare  
and Ante-Natal Clinics:

JOHN S. COAD, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

BASIL WADE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:

F. HOWES, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Medical Officer's Report for the years 1942 and 1943. Once again, as there have been no changes of any outstanding nature affecting the health of the Borough, it has been possible to combine the two years. As in my previous Report, the contents are mainly statistical without written comment, but I would like to draw your attention to some of the outstanding points.

### **Birth Rate.**

The Birth Rate is maintaining its high level without any undue increase in stillbirths or illegitimate births. An interesting point to note is the high proportion of mothers who are going to the Maternity Homes. This can be accounted for by:—

1. Lack of home help, due to the general call for women into industry.

2. The generous attitude of the Council, who, since January, 1942, have allowed wives of Servicemen, where either the husband or wife is normally resident in the Borough, to be admitted at the cost of the Corporation.

### **Death Rate.**

The total Death Rate shows no change. The death rate of children under one year is very disappointing. This, however, is a figure which is subject to great fluctuation, and this year we have been particularly unfortunate in that at least half the causes of death are beyond the control of medical science. In contrast, it is pleasing to note that the Maternal Mortality Rate remains at a low level.



### **Child Welfare.**

The Child Welfare at Croft House has again carried on its excellent work and we remain even more in the debt of the Voluntary Committee, who continue to give untiring service. The number of children attending still maintains a very high level. This is particularly true of the children under one year of age, as 73·5 per cent. of these children are in regular attendance.

In connection with our Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes I must mention the faithful service which Nurse Howes has rendered to the town. Her understanding manner and deep knowledge of her work have gained the confidence of the mothers, so that she has become almost an integral part of the Clinic.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

In 1942 there was an epidemic of measles, when 349 cases were notified. The disease, however, was of a mild type without any unpleasant complications and there were no fatal results. Whooping Cough was also prevalent in the same year and there were 77 notified cases. Apart from the increase in these two diseases, we have had two more years exceptionally free from any serious epidemic.

Inoculation against Diphtheria has been strongly advised by the Health Services of the Borough and the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic has been satisfactory. It is also gratifying to observe that there has been a great increase in the number of children who have been vaccinated against Smallpox.

### **War-time Nursery.**

At the request of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour the Committee decided to establish a War-time Nursery in the grounds of Croft House. My Chairman and Vice-Chairman were very enthusiastic about this project and through their interest many innovations and accessories were obtained. The nursery was opened on February 1st, 1943, as a Day-time Nursery only. However, its popularity soon increased and by April Night Care was established and the Nursery became residential. The number of children attending steadily increased, so that by the end of the year the Nursery was full to capacity. In recognising the undoubted success of the Nursery, I feel that I must pay tribute to the Matron and her staff, whose hard work has made this success possible.

In conclusion I wish to thank my Chairman and the members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and unfailing support during these two years.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. COAD.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

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Area: 3,332 acres.

Population (Census, 1931): 14,834.

Estimated Population: 1941—13,666.

1942—13,480.

1943—13,320.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931): 3,721.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census, 1931): 3,793.

Rateable value of property within the Borough, 1941: £67,515.

1942: £68,490.

1943: £69,855.

Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated), 1941: £256.

1942: £258.

1943: £263.

The amount expended in Outdoor Relief during the three years is as follows:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Number of persons receiving Out-door Relief ... ..	350	307	224
Amount expended on Public Assistance ... ..	£5,502 10 3	£5,723 19 0	£5,402 13 4

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

### NUMBER OF BIRTHS.

	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.
At Home ... ..	151	6	133	3	127	2
Moorlands Maternity Home ...	32	—	44	1	27	3
Staincliffe County Hospital ...	39	1	70	5	90	5
Other Maternity Hospitals ...	4	—	5	—	7	—
Total ...	226	7	252	9	251	10

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
Legitimate ...	115	136	120	97	102	118	212	238	238
Illegitimate ...	9	3	6	5	11	8	14	14	14
	124	139	126	102	113	126	226	252	252

Birth Rate: 1941—16.5  
1942—18.6  
1943—18.9

## STILLBIRTHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
Legitimate ...	1	4	6	5	4	4	6	8	10
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
	1	4	6	6	5	4	7	9	10

Rate per 1,000 live births: 1941—31.0  
1942—35.7  
1943—39.6

## DEATHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
	97	88	100	104	100	104	201	188	204

Total Death Rate: 1941—14.7  
1942—13.9  
1943—15.3

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	1	1
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	1	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ... ..	52	31.7	75.4
Deaths from Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths from Cancer ... ..	21	32	23
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ... ..	—	—	—
Maternal Mortality Rate ... ..	4.3	7.7	7.7

## Deaths in stated causes under one year of age.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
Pink Disease ... ..	—	—	—
Phagedena ... ..	—	—	—
Premature Birth ... ..	1	2	4
Congenital Heart ... ..	2	1	2
Atelectasis of Lungs ... ..	—	2	—
Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	1	—	5
Convulsions ... ..	1	—	4
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—
Enteritis ... ..	2	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—
Congenital astresia of small intestine	—	—	—
Meningitis ... ..	1	—	—
Malnutrition ... ..	1	—	—
Marasmus ... ..	1	—	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	1	1	2
Asphyxia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1	—
	12	7	19

## CHILD WELFARE.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name.	Address.	Sessions.
Infant Welfare Clinic ...	Croft House ...	Monday, 2.30–4.30 p.m. Thursday, 2.30–4 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic ... ..	Do. ... ..	Twice Monthly, on 1st and 3rd Fridays
Post-Natal Clinic ... ..	Do. ... ..	Do.
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic	Do. ... ..	Weekly, Thursday, 2.0 p.m.
Treatment of Minor Ailments	Do. ... ..	Daily, 9.0 a.m.



## ATTENDANCES.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
New Registrations ... ..	263	241	260
Total Registrations ... ..	534	549	591
Average Attendances ... ..	51.3	66.2	70
Percentage of children in the Borough attending Clinic—			
(a) Under 1 year ... ..	72.5	73.3	73.54
(b) 2-5 years ... ..	40.3	43.6	40.5

## FOOD.

	Dried Milk.			Accessory Foods.		
	1941.	1942.	1943.	1941.	1942.	1943.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sold	439 6 10	610 19 3	824 1 11	334 12 4	383 10 2	456 9 10
Given free	10 15 0	4 2 4	1 15 0	9 5 8	4 6 3	1 17 3

## ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Number of Clinics held ... ..	24	24	24
Number of expectant mothers registered ... ..	148	156	196
Transferred from previous year ...	23	55	57
Total attending ... ..	171	211	253
Post-Natal cases attending ... ..	2	2	5
Mothers receiving Dental treatment	15	19	11
Cost of Dental treatment ... ..	£26 15 0	£31 5 0	£12 0 6



## HEALTH VISITOR.

Number of visits paid during the year by the Health Visitor:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.
To expectant mothers ... ..	16	55	5
To children under one year—			
First visits ... ..	192	229	264
Total visits ... ..	1224	1469	1603
To children between 1 and 5 years—			
Total visits ... ..	1214	1642	1528
In addition to the foregoing, visits have paid to cases of:—			
Infant life protection ... ..	—	—	—
Stillbirths ... ..	7	9	10
Miscellaneous ... ..	449	472	480
Evacuees ... ..	153	26	82
Total ...	3255	3902	3972

## MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Minor Ailments ... ..	629	767	930
Dressings ... ..	676	915	1030
Test Feeds ... ..	152	237	181
Impetigo ... ..	313	305	448
Scabies ... ..	37	18	4
Tinea ... ..	26	—	126

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Number of cases notified (excluding Tuberculosis) ... ..	134	499	120
Number of cases removed to hospital (excluding Tuberculosis) ... ..	20	56	66

The following cases were notified:—

	1941.			1942.			1943.		
	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.
Scarlet Fever	11	11	—	28	26	—	49	46	—
Diphtheria ...	8	8	1	19	19	1	23	23	2
Whooping Cough	44	—	—	77	—	—	24	—	—
Measles ...	62	—	—	349	—	—	21	—	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	—	9	2	—	2	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Child Welfare Clinic.

1941—84      1942—188  
1943—175

School Clinic.

1941—106      1942—395  
1943—75

#### VACCINATION.

The numbers of children vaccinated against Smallpox were:

1941—17      1942—25      1943—57

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There have been no cases of the above notified during any of the three years.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

	1941.	1942.	1943.
Number of cases notified (Pulmonary)	4	11	7
Number of cases notified (Non-Pulmonary) ... ..	4	4	4
Death Rate from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ... ..	.43	.51	.4
Death Rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..	.86	.58	.43

## WATER.

Calendar year 1941	...	197,381,000 gallons from Pildacre Waterworks 6,446,000 gallons from Wakefield Waterworks 8,464,000 gallons from Batley Waterworks
Total	...	212,291,000
Calendar year 1942	...	Nil gallons from Pildacre Waterworks 155,528,000 gallons from Wakefield Waterworks Nil gallons from Batley Waterworks
Total	...	155,528,000
Calendar year 1943	...	63,623,000 gallons from Pildacre Waterworks 89,105,000 gallons from Wakefield Waterworks Nil gallons from Batley Waterworks
Total	...	152,728,000

## WAR-TIME NURSERY.

Matron: Mrs. A. E. Spencer, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Deputy Matron: Mrs. F. Jowett, S.R.N.

## CROFT HOUSE NURSERY REPORT FOR 1943.

We opened February 1st as a Day Nursery only. The attendances were as follows:—

0-2s.		Attend- ances.	2-5s.	Attend- ances.	Total Children.	Total Attend- ances.
Feb.	5	80	8	120	13	200
March	7	112	13	220	20	332
April	6	116	17	280	23	396
May	11	212	21	416	32	628
June	13	215	25	426	38	641
July	13	269	26	445	39	714
August	14	244	22	331	36	575
Sept.	14	288	24	357	38	645
Oct.	15	293	24	379	39	672
Nov.	15	290	27	468	42	758
Dec.	14	261	29	491	43	752

## APPENDIX 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1941, 1942, 1943.

Cause of Death.	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	—	1	1	1
6. Influenza ... ..	1	1	2	—	—	—
7. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	3	—	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	4	4	3	1	3
10. Other Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	1
11. Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
12. General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer ... ..	8	13	20	12	11	12
14. Diabetes ... ..	—	3	1	—	2	2
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	17	20	18	19	17	23
16. Heart Disease ... ..	24	14	10	27	25	27
17. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	1	2	1	2	1
18. Bronchitis ... ..	7	16	3	3	3	—
19. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	6	4	2	3	11	12
20. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	—	—	2	—	—
21. Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	—	—	—	2	1
22. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	1	1	—	—	—	—
23. Appendicitis ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
24. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	4	2	7	—	—
26. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	2	6	—	—	—	1
27. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
28. Other Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
29. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	5	1	3	5	2	4
30. Senility ... ..	4	3	—	—	7	6
31. Suicide ... ..	1	1	—	1	—	—
33. Other Violence ... ..	1	2	6	3	5	2
33. Other Defined Diseases ... ..	12	4	—	—	9	6
34. Ill-defined Diseases or not known	—	—	10	6	1	—
35. Diarrhœa (2 years and over) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	97	104	84	96	101	104



# ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR, Year ended 31st December, 1943.

together with Statistics for year 1942.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report, in which is given a brief review of the work of my Department and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your District during the year 1943, together with statistics for the year 1942.

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## HOUSING.

Attention has been focussed on post-war requirements, and programmes of work have been formulated. Notwithstanding the urgent need for a considerable number of new dwellings, your Council decided on 70 new houses for the first year's programme. The figure was kept low in order not to embarrass the Government so far as materials and labour were concerned; but, if circumstances permit approval to a larger number, the programme will be increased. Your officers have discussed housing requirements with the Regional Architect and the Deputy Town Planning Officer, when the following rough estimates were given:—

Scheduled property	...	...	...	203 houses
Property requiring to be scheduled	...	...	...	500 houses
Overcrowding	...	...	...	350 houses
General housing	...	...	...	250 houses
				<hr/>
				1,303 houses
				<hr/>

To maintain a progressive supply of new dwellings, sites must be secured in advance of building requirements. It is to be regretted that preliminary investigations carried out in connection with certain areas which appeared particularly suitable for immediate housing development on a reasonable scale revealed unexpected obstacles due to underground coal workings. Municipal development in this particular area proved to be out

of the question for a considerable period of time, and therefore consideration will have to be given to sites in other parts of the district where freedom from such restrictions obtains.

At the present time there are twenty-two confirmed Clearance Areas, comprising ninety-two dwellings, for which re-housing accommodation continues in abeyance, and the first seventy houses of your post-war programme are for the re-housing of persons to be displaced from these areas. The period of time which has elapsed since the Orders were confirmed has been responsible for numerous families moving out of the areas; at the present time fifty-one of the ninety-two houses are empty. In many cases the empty property has been stripped of doors, windows and interior fittings, leaving nothing more than empty shells.

During 1943 nine unfit houses were demolished, with a like number demolished during 1942.

There has been increased difficulty in securing maintenance repairs to existing property; this is due primarily to the shortage of skilled labour in the district.

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected:—

	1942.	1943.
(a) By the Local Authority ... ..	—	—
(b) By private enterprise ... ..	—	—

Inspection of dwelling-houses—

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	85	73
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	130	126

### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The period under review was responsible for a slight decrease in the number of privies in your district. Improvements effected under this head include the conversion of ten privies to water-closets; thirty-seven additional water-closets were provided to existing property. Ten drainage systems were reconstructed, and sixty-five choked systems opened or cleansed.

The following table gives details of improvements effected during 1942 and 1943—

	1942.	1943.
Privies converted to water-closets ... ..	9	1
Slop (tipper) closets converted to water-closets ... ..	1	—
Privies abolished ... ..	—	—

Pail closets abolished ... ..	—	—
Additional water-closets provided to existing buildings ... ..	35	2
Water-closets provided to new buildings ...	—	—
Ashpits (wet) abolished ... ..	4	—
Ashpits (dry) abolished ... ..	—	—
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits	3	—
Ashbins provided for new buildings ... ..	—	—
Drains reconstructed ... ..	8	2
Drains opened or cleansed ... ..	38	27

The following table shows the existing sanitary accommodation at the end of 1943—

Privies in connection with ashpits ... ..	132
Slop (tipper) closets ... ..	54
Water closets ... ..	4,023
Pail closets ... ..	6
Trough closets ... ..	69
Ashpits in connection with privies ... ..	109
Ashpits (dry) ... ..	128
Ashbins ... ..	4,238

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

### Meat and Tinned Foods.

Home killed meat supplies continued to come into the district dressed ready for the butcher. Slaughtering takes place at Ministry of Food premises in a nearby town and supplies are transported to the local allocation centre by motor vehicles. The premises used for receiving and re-allocating the meat is a private slaughter-house in the town centre; the building was not designed to accommodate the volume of meat now passing through it, consequently there have been times when the hanging facilities have proved totally inadequate and undesirable features have resulted. True, the meat has not been kept under such condition for any lengthy period, but, this notwithstanding, it can only be tolerated as a makeshift measure. Delivery times are not very stable, but efforts are made to maintain supervision by routine visits to the centre on receiving days. During 1942 seventy-nine such visits were made, and in 1943 the number was one hundred and two.

A good deal of attention was of necessity paid to tinned food, and a large quantity was handled for inspection during 1942 and 1943. Wherever possible, foodstuffs unfit for human consumption are salvaged for other purposes. Damage in transit contributed greatly to losses in tinned goods.



Foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption during 1942 and 1943 are summarised below:—

Commodity.	Year.	
	1942.	1943.
	lb.	lb.
Beef (fresh) ... ..	56	38
Pork (fresh) ... ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
Pork Offal ... ..	18	—
Fruit (fresh) ... ..	—	8
Fruit (tinned) ... ..	5427 $\frac{1}{4}$	907 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fish (fresh) ... ..	—	359 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish (tinned) ... ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{4}$
Meat (tinned) ... ..	203	268 $\frac{3}{4}$
Meat pies ... ..	35	—
Flour ... ..	—	1
Eggs ... ..	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetables (tinned) ... ..	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	81 $\frac{3}{4}$
Milk (tinned) ... ..	1387 $\frac{3}{4}$	6395 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dried fruit ... ..	—	1
Tea ... ..	$\frac{1}{4}$	—
Sugar ... ..	—	14
Cereals ... ..	1	—
Soup (tinned) ... ..	—	$\frac{3}{4}$
Margarine ... ..	—	28
Jam ... ..	—	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon ... ..	—	36 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ham ... ..	—	13
Butter .. ..	—	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese ... ..	—	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
Totals ...	7365 $\frac{1}{4}$	8485 $\frac{3}{4}$

Year 1942—3 tons, 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.  
 „ 1943—3 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.

### Milk.

Generally speaking, the efforts of dairy farmers during these times of labour difficulty and increased land work call for a word of commendation. True, there have been lapses in attention to buildings and animals, but, with the exception of a small number of incidents, there has been a real effort to keep premises and cows in something like a reasonable state of cleanliness. Farmers have fully maintained the numbers of their milking herds, and I estimate that there has been an increase in the output of milk.

Complaints in respect of souring have been few in number; those brought to notice were found to relate to milk supplies obtained outside the district.

Number of registered cowkeepers ... ..	27
Number of registered cowsheds ... ..	29
Number of registered milk sellers ... ..	35
Number of licensed producers of “ Accredited ” milk	5
Number of licensed retailers of “ Pasteurised ” milk	2



## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection of rooms and bedding, etc., after incidence of infectious diseases is carried out as a matter of routine. Rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde; bedding and clothing steam-treated at the disinfecting station at Northfield Road.

In cases of vermin infestation, use is made of proprietary fumigants and insecticides, with steam treatment of bedding.

The increase in the number of cases of scabies was responsible for much additional work during the past two years. Patients' bedding and clothing are passed through the steam disinfecter at each treatment until the condition is cleared up.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

Year.	Houses disinfected.	Schools disinfected.	Houses treated for vermin.	Scabies disinfestation.
1942 ...	49	1	3	77
1943 ...	61	1	6	52

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Under the scheme for the concentration of industry the two fellmongering premises ceased to operate.

The number of premises on the register is 4, viz.: 1 gut-scrapers, 1 tripe boiler and 2 fellmongers.

I have had no complaints in respect of the premises still operating.

## FACTORIES.

Improvements effected at factories since my last report include the provision of twenty-one additional water-closets and the conversion of five privies to water-closets.

Inspections made in connection with matters for which the Council is responsible, including escape in case of fire, numbered thirty-eight in 1942 and thirty in 1943.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

A notable addition to the legislation relating to the destruction of rats and mice was an Order comprising eighteen articles entitled the Infestation Order, 1943, made by the Minister of Food under date 6th May, 1943.

Article 1 is confined to definitions for the purpose of the Order of the following terms:—

“ Agricultural land,” “ The appointed day,” “ Containers,” “ Food,” “ Forage,” “ Infested,” “ Land,”

“ Local authority,” “ Occupier,” “ Owner,” “ Pest control article,” “ Pest control undertaker,” “ Pest control undertaking,” “ Port health district,” “ Treatment,” “ Undertaker,” “ Undertaking,” and “ Vessel.”

The primary object of the Order is the prevention of damage to food by infestation, and the Minister of Food is empowered under the Order to direct local authorities and others to perform certain prescribed functions. In this connection information was supplied to the Minister with respect to the extent of infestation in your district, and a direction was subsequently served on the Council dated 9th November, 1943, requiring such action as may be necessary to remedy infestation within your administrative area.

In November, 1943, I attended a two-day Instructional Course held at Wakefield on methods of poisoning, etc. Numerous preliminaries connected with rodent control were in hand at the close of the year.

Visits connected with rat infestation numbered eight in 1942 and forty-eight in 1943.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL. Staff.**

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in adequately staffing the department, and this problem was further intensified by an unusual amount of sickness among the employees.

During the war period no permanent appointments have been made; men drafted in as “ temporaries ” are elderly, and in order to keep the service going we have had to resort to the expedient of extending the service of permanent men beyond the superannuation age.

The present staff consists of two motor drivers, six loaders, one tip man and one paper baler.

## **Transport.**

Two motor vehicles operate full time. Vehicle No. 1 (Morris 30 cwt.) was purchased in September, 1938, and is now six years old. Vehicle No. 2 (Bedford 30 cwt.) commenced to operate in February, 1940. Both vehicles have a consistently good record of service, but the time has now arrived for extensive mechanical overhaul if they are to continue to give efficient and reliable service. Arrangements are in hand for each wagon to have the necessary attention before the winter sets in.

For the purpose of costings each vehicle is given a five years' life.

## Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse disposal has been concentrated at Flushdyke tip; this has facilitated salvage operations.

Fish offal and garbage are disposed of with the kitchen waste for animal feeding.

## Salvage.

Over the past three years the value of salvage sold has remained at a consistent level. There have been variations in the quantities of the different materials recovered, but the resultant yearly income shows little variation. The most notable reduction is in waste paper; this is a common experience and a natural sequence to the drives which have been held for this particular form of salvage, although I feel that wastage is still taking place.

The following tables show in detail the quantity of salvage sold and the resultant income during the period under review:—

Material.	1942-1943.		1943-1944.	
	Tons.	Cwts.	Tons.	Cwts.
Waste Paper ... ..	96	4	88	17 $\frac{7}{8}$
Kitchen Waste ... ..	116	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	106	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Unbaled Tins ... ..	21	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—
Household Bones ... ..	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	13 $\frac{3}{8}$
Textiles and Sacking ... ..	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Scrap Iron ... ..	5	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Aluminium ... ..	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1
Brass, Zinc, etc. ... ..	—	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	12
Bottles and Jars ... ..	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rubber ... ..	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Total tonnage ... ..	246	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	209	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

## Income (Salvage).

Year.	1942-1943.		1943-1944.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Total amount credited to Salvage ...	897	18 9	860	8 1

## Costs.

The amount to be met by rates for the two years under review shows a slight decrease over the previous three years, although there is an increase in the cost per ton figures. This can be accounted for by reason of separate salvage collections,



increases in wages and commodity prices, certain special collections, and factors connected with labour, briefly commented on previously.

With minor adjustment for vehicle depreciation the figures quoted are taken from the Abstract of Accounts prepared by the Borough Treasurer.

The following table gives comparative figures for the past five years:—

Year.	Gross cost.	Income.	Nett cost.	Cost per ton (collection and disposal).
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
1943-44	2,827 16 10	972 1 7	1,855 15 3	10 10.3
1942-43	2,950 6 1	1,069 3 9	1,881 2 4	9 9.6
1941-42	3,050 6 7	1,074 8 11	1,975 17 8	9 1.8
1940-41	2,625 6 3	704 11 1	1,920 15 2	8 5.7
1939-40	1,932 12 2	28 3 11	1,904 8 3	7 1.3



## CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

	1942.	1943.
Housing—Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	130	126
Overcrowding ... ..	4	2
Verminous premises ... ..	11	20
Rat infested premises ... ..	8	48
Factories ... ..	38	30
Slaughter-houses ... ..	—	—
Meat Allocation Centre ... ..	79	102
Markets ... ..	39	42
Shops re food supplies ... ..	37	90
Cowsheds and dairies ... ..	28	21
Privies and ashpits ... ..	17	1
Offensive trade premises ... ..	5	3
Fried fish shops ... ..	5	6
Bakehouses ... ..	17	6
Keeping of animals and offensive accumulations ... ..	6	7
Smoke ... ..	—	7
Refuse removal ... ..	44	58
Salvage ... ..	128	203
Drains inspected ... ..	142	47
Tips ... ..	23	42
Miscellaneous ... ..	43	77

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.	1942.	1943.
Rendered free from dampness ... ..	5	3
Roofs repaired ... ..	8	10
External walls repaired ... ..	2	—
Chimneys repaired ... ..	1	1
New sinks fixed ... ..	3	9
Waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	6	13
Eaves-gutters repaired or renewed ... ..	2	7
Fallpipes repaired or renewed ... ..	3	4
Windows repaired ... ..	2	—
Plasterwork repaired ... ..	5	4
Floors repaired ... ..	1	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed ... ..	3	5
Coppers repaired or renewed ... ..	1	—
Cleansed and limewashed ... ..	6	2
Fallpipes disconnected from drains ... ..	6	3
Water removed from cellars ... ..	15	4
Treated for vermin (bugs, beetles, etc.) ... ..	3	6
Disinfected ... ..	49	61
Other defects remedied ... ..	11	7

## WATER-CLOSETS.

Provided in substitution of privies ... ..	9	1
Additional water-closets provided for existing property ... ..	35	2
Provided in substitution of slop (tipper) closets ... ..	1	—
Erected for new houses ... ..	—	—
Total number provided for houses ... ..	8	—
Total number provided for factories ... ..	25	2
Total number provided (other premises) ... ..	12	—
Cisterns repaired ... ..	4	8
New pedestals fixed ... ..	1	1
Provided with sufficient supply of water ... ..	17	6
Cleansed and limewashed ... ..	3	3

PRIVY MIDDENS.								1942.	1943.
Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Converted to water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1
ASHPITS.									
Abolished (wet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Abolished (dry)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
ASHBINS.									
Provided in lieu of ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Provided for new houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	13
DRAINS.									
Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
Cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	27
Under houses abolished or gullies removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	2
Self-cleansing gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	4
Vent shafts provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1
SCHOOLS.									
Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS.									
Removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2

## SUMMARY.

								1942.	1943.
NUISANCES FOUND.									
Number found during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183	134
Number brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	40
Number abated during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169	153
Number outstanding end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	21
NOTICES ISSUED.									
Informal notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148	110
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	93
Statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2

In conclusion, I again desire to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the interest taken in matters brought to your notice.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

B. WADE,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

Town Hall, Ossett,

29th August, 1944.



